

Community Collaboration in Child Abuse and Neglect

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Agenda

1. **Mandated Reporting**
 2. **Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect**
 3. **Values and Judgments**
 4. **Reporting**
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 6. **Differential Response**
 7. **Community Support and Collaboration**
- Strengthening Families**



Mandated Reporting

- **Child Protection Act of 1987, Colo. Rev. Stat. § § 19-3-301 et seq., 26-6-104 (2009).**
- **You have a suspicion that abuse or neglect has or may occur.**
- **You work in an environment with children or vulnerable adults.**
- **Concerns have to be reported immediately to DHS or Law Enforcement.**



Who is Mandated to Report?

*** Mandated Reporters are Not Just Limited to These!**



- Physicians or surgeon,
 - including a
 - physician in training
- Child health associate
- Medical examiner or coroner
- Dentist
- Osteopath
- Optometrist
- Chiropractor
- Chiropodist or podiatrist
- Registered nurse or licensed
 - practical nurse



- Hospital personnel engaged in the admission, care, or treatment of patients
- Christian science practitioner
- Public or private school official or employee
- Social worker or worker in any facility or agency that is licensed or certified
- Mental health professional
- Dental hygienist
- Psychologist
- Physical therapist



- Veterinarian
- Peace officer
- Pharmacist
- Commercial film
 - photographic print processor
- Firefighter
- Victims advocate
- Licensed professional
 - counselor
- Licensed marriage and family
 - therapist
- Unlicensed psychotherapists
- Clergy

Recognizing Abuse and Neglect

Physical Abuse

Colorado Childrens' Code 19-1-103(1)(a)(I): Any case in which a child (under the age of 18) exhibits evidence of skin bruising, bleeding, malnutrition, failure to thrive, burns, fracture of any bone, subdural hematoma, soft tissue swelling, or death and either such condition or death **is not justifiably explained**.

Examples Include:

- Fractures
- Abrasions / Lacerations
- Bruises
- Burns
- Blunt Force Trauma / Shaken Baby Syndrome

Always Listen to the Story!

Does it Make Sense?



Recognizing Abuse and Neglect

Emotional Abuse

Colorado Childrens' Code 19-1-103(1)(a)(IV):
an identifiable and substantial impairment
of the child's intellectual or psychological
functioning or development or substantial
risk of impairment of the child's intellectual
or psychological functioning or
development.

Recognizing Abuse and Neglect

Sexual Abuse

Colorado Childrens' Code 19-1-103(1)(a)(II): Any case in which a child is subjected to unlawful sexual behavior as defined in 16-22-102(9).

- All incest cases are felony charges
- All are joint investigations
- Law enforcement investigates 3rd party abuse
- All alleged perpetrators under 10 are screened



It is important to always ask the location!

Recognizing Abuse and Neglect

Neglect

Colorado Children's Code 19-3-103: Any case in which a child is in need of services because the child's parents, legal guardian, or custodian fails to take the same actions to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision that a prudent parent would take.

Including

- Lack of Supervision
- Dirty House
- Failure to Thrive
- Drug Exposed Child / Substance Abuse
- Medical
- Abandonment versus Safe Haven
- Munchausen by Proxy/ Factitious Disorder
- Mental Health of Caregiver

Recognizing Abuse and Neglect

Neglect

Domestic Violence

Any physical, emotional or verbal attack
committed against an intimate adult partner.

This is considered an injurious environment.

DHS takes calls involving domestic violence
seriously!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_ht2vAYPoc





Values and Judgements

Scenario 1

Pat eats large amounts of food at morning snack time.

Scenario 2

Sandy's clothes are always dirty.

Scenario 3

Megan lives out of a car with her mother and little brother.

Values and Judgments

It is important to suspend our own personal values and judgments when making determinations about child abuse and neglect.

What is a bad parent? What is a good parent?

Great Parent

Good Parent

Fair Parent

Poor Parent

Awful Parent



Values and Judgments

Colorado Children's Code 19-2-502 states: In all cases, those investigating reports of child abuse shall take into account accepted child-rearing practices of the **culture** in which the child participates including, but not limited to, accepted work related practices of agricultural communities.

It is important for everyone, including community members and DHS, to take cultural considerations into account when determining child abuse or neglect.



○ **Coining/Cupping**



How to Report

- o Signs of Safety
- o WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS TODAY?
- o MILITARY/BRANCH:
- o LAW ENFORCEMENT JURISDICTION:
- o SPECIAL NEEDS OR DIAGNOSES?
- o ARE THERE ANY ANIMALS/PETS IN THE HOME?
- o FAMILY STRENGTHS AND SUPPORT AND/OR PROTECTIVE CAPACITY:
- o WHAT ARE NEEDED INTERVENTIONS/SOLUTIONS (MAKE CHILD SAFER)?
- o WHAT IS THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE OR CAN OFFER THE FAMILY?



Two Ways to Report...

How to Report

- Child Abuse Hot Line at 719-444-5700.

- Statewide Hotline: 1-844-CO-4Kids

Ensure that a report is called in as soon as possible!





DHS Role

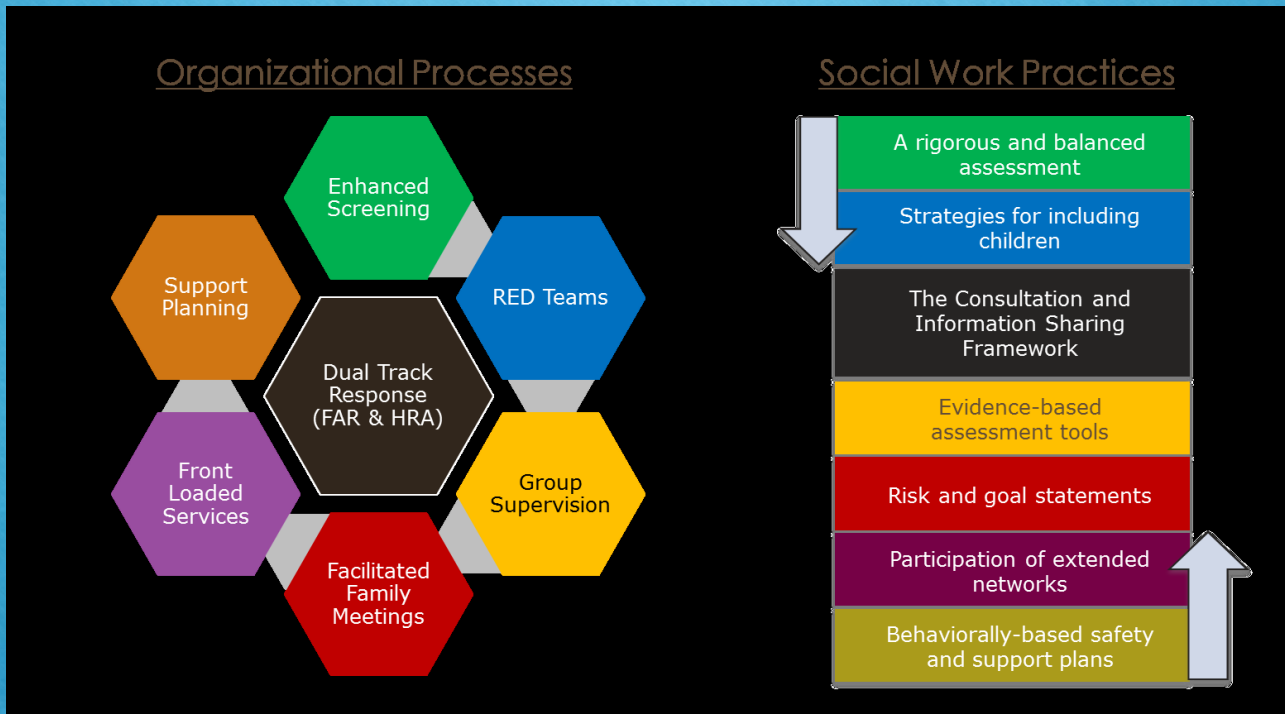
- A referral gets called in.
- The referral goes through RED teams.
- If a referral is assigned, it is given a response time.
 - 5 Working days
 - 3 Calendar days
 - Immediate
- The caseworker makes contact and assesses for safety and supports

DHS Role

- Confidentiality
- Rights of the Parents
- Rights of the Informant
- What DHS Can and Can't Tell You



Differential Response



Community Support and Collaboration

According to a new report by the Colorado Children's Campaign, Colorado had one of the fastest growing rates of children in poverty over the last decade, with El Paso county experiencing one of the highest rates in the state!

The number of children living in poverty (defined as \$22,350 for a family of four) in Colorado has more than doubled since 2000. In El Paso county, the number of children living in poverty has increased 111% over the same period.

In 2010 (most current data), more than 19%, or approximately 31,000 children, in El Paso county were living in poverty.



Community Support and Collaboration

- We must all partner together to help families, especially those who are in poverty.
- Children are not removed from homes because of poverty!
- What can you do to help?
- Reach out to families. Ask if there are struggles and what you can do to help.
- Offer resources to the families.
- Utilize the Strengthening Families Protective Factors
- Some families lack a support system. Helping families to create that support system, with yourselves included, will go a long way!



Guiding Principles

- We believe in family, child and youth engagement.
- We believe that family engagement throughout the life of the case is critical practice through which we help children and families make positive changes.
- We value a team decision-making model to work with families, children and youth. Children and families have the right to have a say in what happens to them and will be treated with dignity and respect.
- We recognize that family members are the experts about their own families.
- We value family engagement as an organization system norm.





Protective Factors

Parental Resilience

Social Connections

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Social and Emotional Competence of Children

Protective Factors

Parental Resilience

- Ability to handle stress and solve problems.
- How could you build this protective factor in families you work with?
- What resources already exist in your community?

Social Connections

- Networks of support.
- How could you build this protective factor in families you work with?
- What resources already exist in your community?

Concrete Support in Times of Need

- Food, shelter, clothing, treatment
- How could you build this protective factor in families you work with?
- What resources already exist in your community?

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

- Accurate understanding, expectations, and responses
- How could you build this protective factor in families you work with?
- What resources already exist in your community?

Social and Emotional Health of Children

- Ability for children to self-regulate, communicate, etc.
- How could you build this protective factor in families you work with?
- What resources already exist in your community?

Protective Factors

○ Seven protective strategies that support five protective factors.

Facilitate friendships and mutual support

Strengthen parenting

Respond to family crises

Link families to services and opportunities

Value and support parents

Further children's social and emotional development

Observe and respond to early warning signs of abuse and neglect

When children ask for help

Do

- Do offer support and empathize.
- Do gather as much information as you can, without being too intrusive.
- Do tell them that you cannot tell them what is going to happen, but that you are there for support.

Do not

- Ask leading questions.
- Promise that everything will be okay.
- Tell them that someone will come out and remove them from the situation.
- Talk discouraging and in a negative context about the caregiver.

Child Abuse and Neglect is a Community Problem! We must all work together to keep children safe!



Questions / Comments



References

- <http://www.coloradokids.org/data/publications/2012kidscount.html>
- <http://www.childwelfare.gov/>